

The Link



August 2009

Thornleigh Hillcrest
Uniting Church Newsletter

Singing God's Song

The song *We Shall Not Be Moved* – or, in its Spanish version, *No Nos Moveran*, is reminiscent of Psalm 1. “Just like a tree standing by the water, we shall not be moved,” goes the song, echoing Psalm 1:3: “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.”

Psalm 1 introduces the whole book, and in some scholars' eyes it sets the tone for the volume. The psalmist tells us that there are two ways to go – the way of the righteous or the way of the wicked. The first can lead us to life in God's presence, the second to perishing.

This does not speak of punishment so much as it speaks of simple reality. Like directions on the highway, if you take a wrong turn you end up in the wrong place. Not punishment, just reality.

The song *We Shall not be Moved* conjures up a similar sense. It began its life in English in North Carolina, sung by striking workers. Translated into Spanish, it became very popular in Spain. However, the song was seen as being too political and was banned from public singing there for over 40 years.

In 1979 US folk singer Joan Baez sang the song in Spain on a television show, the first person who dared to sing it. The reaction was varied, but most people in the audience were simply in shock. How could she do this? How could she proclaim this message that had been banned for so long?

There are times when we are called to proclaim God's message – however unpopular it might be. There are times when we are called to dare a public outcry and proclaim a message of righteousness, truth, and justice in the face of opposition.

It can be scary. It can be dangerous. On the other hand, it can be the path that leads to righteousness, too.

Editor's Clipsheets

called....



Combined Service

9.30am on Sunday, August 30, 2009

A great opportunity for us all to worship together and hear Knox School chaplains, Revs Will Newton and Phil Nicholson.

Please plan to attend and stay for morning tea to share fellowship.

Church Family News

Remember in your prayers:

Mavis and Gordon Price, Angaline Singam and her family, also our missionaries – the Wakefield family in PNG and Richard & Lindsey Parker in South Africa. Broken Hill congregation and Pastor Will Pearson and his wife Betty.

Au Revoir, Lynette

At the Mid-Year Dinner on Saturday July 18, Lyn Deutscher's long service with this congregation and the Hillcrest Road congregation was recognised with an attractive quilt and monetary gift. During over 40 years, Lyn has filled various significant positions – elder, elders' secretary, pastoral care convenor, roster compiler, a preparer of communion, as well as other tasks within the life of the church.

As she moves from this area to Port Macquarie to be near family, we wish to thank her for her tireless work, and her friendship and care to so many people. We trust she will find a welcoming and caring church family and opportunities for service and fellowship in this new chapter in her life.

David Richardson

Sympathy is extended to Pauline, Robert and Catherine King and Arnold Witcomb (father-in-law) on the death of David on Tuesday July 21. His funeral was held on Wednesday July 28 at THUC.

Meeting Dates for your Diary

A meeting of the two Worship Committees is to be held on Wednesday August 5 at 7.30pm at the Richardsons' home to plan combined services scheduled for August 30 and November 29.

All elders are encouraged to meet together on Monday August 10 at 7.30pm in the Youth Room to share fellowship and concerns, to pray together and consider how we can more effectively serve our congregation.

The combined Mission /Leadership & Discipleship Team is to meet on Tuesday August 11 at 7pm at the Richardsons' home.

Birthdays

August

2 Peter Busch
4 Marie Williams
6 Helen Whalley
14 Varun Mathew
15 Roy Ringrose
16 Jenny Batt
21 Joshua Wakefield
23 Di Thom
Cathy Thompson
24 Lyn Deutscher
Jessica Wakefield

26 Steven Lundberg
28 Hope Cook
29 Emma Wilcockson
Sarah harp



Friendship Group

During recent months the Group has been concentrating on winter clothes and rugs to be sent over to Richard and Lindsey Parker for distribution among the South Africans with whom they are working.



At our next meeting to be held on **Wednesday August 12** we are planning to watch a DVD at the home of Jan Williamson, 31 Nicholson Avenue, Thornleigh, and we would love to welcome any of the ladies of the church who would like to join us. Hopefully, on Sunday August 9 I will be able to include the title of the DVD in the Weekly News Sheet.

During the next couple of months our members, together with many others from the congregation will be preparing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child to be forwarded, by Samaritan's Purse, to the children in Third World countries who otherwise don't get to enjoy the spirit of Christmas. Anyone requiring boxes and/or information brochures can speak to me at church or call me on 9484 4091.

Brenda Geary

Cluster Group News

The June activity for Cluster Group proved to be an interesting and informative outing when we spent an hour in the Great Synagogue in the city, viewing a DVD and hearing a talk about both the building and the Jewish faith.

We then travelled by bus to the Jewish Museum to view various exhibits particularly relating to the Holocaust – a very moving experience.

The Midwinter Potluck Dinner on Saturday July 18 was enjoyed by over 50 members of our congregation who not only shared food and fellowship, but were also privileged to learn of the outstanding work of Mercy Ships which bring hope and healing to many needy areas, particularly in West Africa.



In August, we will not meet on the usual third Saturday but will be attending the Sydney Welsh Choir Concert in our centre on Saturday August 29. The September activity will be an outing to celebrate the coming of spring! Watch for details.

Shirley Richardson – for Cluster Group
Convenors Shirley & Bruce Sharpham

Second Sunday Club

Sunday August 9

Subject: Castles in Spain

Speakers:
June and John McGregor



Prayer Time

Prayer Time – first Saturday of each month

There is an opportunity to pray together for our church, its people and mission, on Saturday August 1 from 9 to 10am in the Heritage Chapel. It is planned to hold a prayer time on the first Saturday of each month, unless otherwise announced.

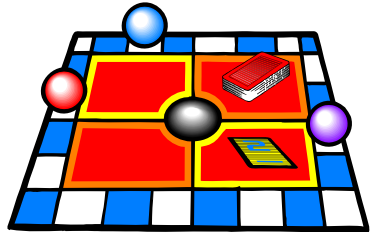
Please come to join in this time of prayer, whether you are able to verbalise your prayers or pray silently.

Any enquiries to David Richardson.

Mingles

Saturday August 22 at 7.30pm

Join us for a games and dessert night at the Lodewijks' home. A new game, Catchphrase on the menu as well as lots of yummy treats. Contact Susie and John for details.



For the Diary

There are two upcoming musical events at our church.

Saturday August 29 at 7.30pm: Sydney Welsh Choir (Cor Cymru Sydney).

Tickets: \$20 adult, \$15 concession, \$5 school student from Shirley and David Richardson, Shirley and Bruce Sharpham, Barb and Allan West. Profits to us.

Saturday November 21 at 7.30pm: Northern Sydney Youth Orchestra.

Tickets: \$20 adult, \$15 concession, \$5 school student available soon. Profits to a local charity and ourselves.





August 8: JAAL Training Afternoon, 1-4pm

Training consists of six sessions of 20 minutes duration with a break for afternoon tea. Please register by writing your name on the list in the foyer or talk to Cathy Thompson.

There's a possibility we'll run an evening training session on August 12, numbers permitting. If you'd prefer an evening training session please talk to Jeni Tresize or Cathy Thompson or email thompsonca@optusnet.com.au

August 29: JAAL Banner Day

Our JAAL banner will be put up on the wall – make sure you have a look.

September 15: JAAL Media Launch

People across NSW will see and hear the JAAL ads for the first time.

Prayer Points

- The JAAL activities planned by the churches
- For interaction with the other churches in our area so that we can combine for a community JAAL event
- Give thanks for the churches already registered for the campaign in our local area and across NSW

Daffodils - the Symbol of Hope



Are you a cancer survivor?

Do you know someone diagnosed with cancer?

Let's support the work of the Cancer Council
by joining in the
Daffodil Day fundraiser.



A Morning Tea at the church
on **Saturday, August 29** at **10.30am**

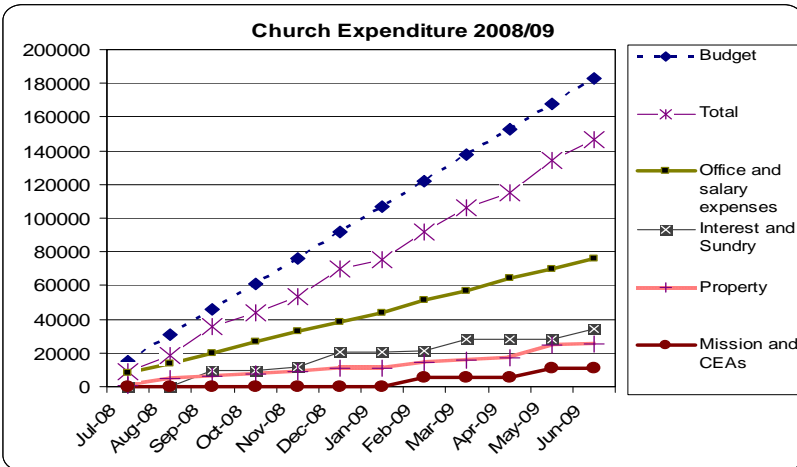
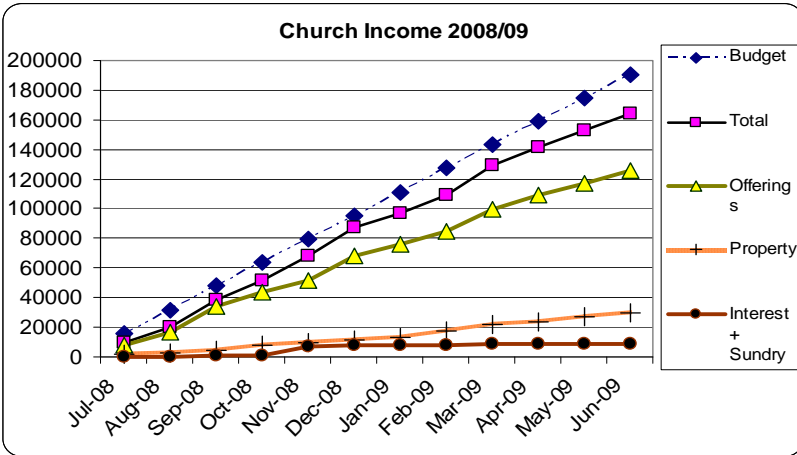
Fresh daffodils and a range of products will be for sale along with an opportunity to make tax deductible donations.

Bring your friends and family to our decadent, delicious morning tea.

P.S. Please join us after or during the working bee, which starts earlier that day.

Church Finance

Church Income and Expenditure, 2008/09 financial year



Both graphs above include budgeted expenditures only.

During the financial year the balance of our Church loan decreased by \$20,620 to \$360,872. The balance in the Church operating account increased by \$11,316 to \$22,424 – this increase has enabled payment of 50% of our 2009/10 budgeted amounts to our missionaries and Christian education associations in July.

Associations during 2008-09

During the 2008-09 financial year our Church gave a total of \$33,283 to our missionaries, Christian education associations, the Bible Society, Christmas Bowl, Bushfire appeal and Samaritan Purse. A breakdown is below:

	Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook CEA	Normanhurst CEA	Wake-fields	Parkers	Retiring Offerings and Christmas Bowl
Individual offerings	\$890	\$834	\$7513	\$8593	\$4,452
Congreg contribns	\$3000	\$3000	\$3000	\$2000	
Totals	\$3,890	\$3,834	\$10,513	\$10,594	\$4,452

The congregational contributions in the above table are the budgeted amounts shown in the Church Expenditure graph, totalling \$11,000. The amount for Christmas Bowl donations includes the credit card donations made on Christmas Day.

Don't Fuss

The pastor began the meeting by reading from Luke 12:25-26: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

One of the women started to cry. "If only you knew," she said. "We're having trouble with our mortgage, Gene's been laid off and things are really tough. I was crying in my office not half an hour ago; now you remind me that, no matter what, God is somehow with me, caring for me."

How simple are those words and yet, at the same time, how difficult to live by. Often people will say 'Consider the lilies' but we can be too busy to do that. Yet when we do stop and open ourselves to God's presence, we can indeed be amazed at how close that presence really is, and the effect it can have in our lives.

I WILL
GIVE
YOU
REST

MT
11:28



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Market Day

Saturday November 7

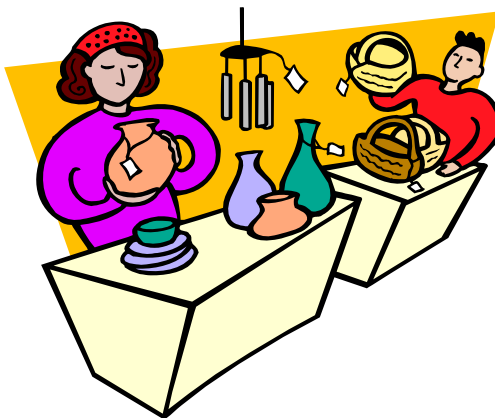


The centrefold of this issue is a form about our Market Day – so we didn't print anything on the back of it so your *Link* remained complete! Please read it carefully, write your responses and hand it in promptly – or by August 23 at the latest.

Double-check your name is on it please!

Reminder about things to do now:

- Create items to sell at the craft stall/s – textiles, wood, paper, knitting etc
- Collect and try out recipes for yummy treats to make for the cake stall
- Start putting aside pre-loved treasures and books when you're decluttering
- Strike and pot up plants for the plant stall
- Plan your Christmas shopping with this day in mind.



A small group meets each Monday afternoon from 4-6pm in the youth room to make textile furnishings for the worship space, craft items for the stall and quilts to auction at Market Day. We invite any interested people to join us for a relaxing time of stitching and fellowship.

Bible Society

Fiji Schoolies' Mission 09 – 4th-15th December – \$1950

Kids, Bibles, Jesus, games, culture, fun and plenty of sun

For more information contact Mark: mbrown@biblesocietynsw.com.au

mobile: 0417467076 or visit www.biblesocietyyouth.org

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Best Market Day
9am to 2pm



Range of stalls and activities:

Crafts\Knitted
Trading Post
International Foods

Items\Cards\Tea Towels
Books\Music
Ice Cream\Drinks

How by ticking the items below and returning this form:

- I will donate ingredients/money for the Cake stall
- I will provide Lucky Dips for the Whack-a-Rat Stall
- I will provide plants for the Plant Stall

Market Day
Morning

evening

Phone:

PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH FOYER ASAP, BUT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 23

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Muslim Dialogue

On July 20, eight of us had an evening with three mid-forties guys who are part of a group meeting at Cherrybrook UC each evening during Ramadan. Two came from Pakistan and one came from India; they are all professional people – an accountant, teacher and civil engineer. Two live in Cherrybrook and one lives in West Pennant Hills. All are married with their families born here.

They first asked why we wanted this meeting. We said that there had been a lot of bad press about Muslims; we thought this was exaggerated and wanted to talk to local Muslim people to find out more how they live and live out their spiritual life.

They told us we all had much in common and one of these things is the love of cricket; one of the fellows still plays for West Pennant Hills Cricket Club as do his sons. We learned there were Five Pillars in Islam: One God, Prayer five times a day, Fasting in Ramadan, Jihad, which strictly is struggle (like talking about your faith to an unbeliever or resisting alcohol), and the Haj – pilgrimage to Mecca (at least one did this a couple of years back with his wife). Overall, Muslims should respect the rights of others. Jesus was a Prophet who rose from the dead; Muhammed was the Last Prophet. The Qur'an is the principal text but the Old Testament is also used. Muslims are asked to give 2½% to needy people (including family).

There are 72 different types of Muslim but two main types – Shi'ites who accentuate Ali, a nephew of Muhammed as a leader (keeping the bloodline of The Prophet) and Sunis who believe that no bloodline is more special. This means they have different prayers and certainly a different political attitude. All these people were Sunis.

Islam means submitting to the will of God. Certainly, maintaining the daily fast in Ramadan between dawn and dusk requires commitment. Life goes on the same. They get up about 3.30am and have porridge and a good breakfast before prayers. The fast is broken after 5pm. The evening is often spent together with prayers. The Qur'an has 30 chapters and they try to read a chapter each evening. Everything good done in Ramadan is rewarded 70 times; the object is to achieve piety and come closer to God.

We have been invited to share an evening with them at Cherrybrook this year. Ramadan starts on August 21 and goes for 30 days. We will be told the best time in August.

I distributed speakers' notes and my report from a symposium *Challenging Islamophobia: towards social justice and inclusion* at University of Sydney on July 19, 2009. Ask for a copy if you are interested.

Allan West

Church Involvement in Hosting Overseas Delegates

Sunday July 19

Dear Friend,

Greetings from UnitingWorld. Over the past week the 12th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia has had the privilege and joy of sharing in fellowship with guests from our partner churches in Asia, the Pacific and Africa. It has given many people the opportunity to hear the stories of our brothers and sisters in Christ; to share in their joys and burdens and to pray with them.

On Sunday 19th July, all of our overseas guests were hosted by a different Uniting Church congregations in Sydney, where they were able to participate in and experience worship. You and your church played a crucial role in helping make this day a success and we would like to say thank you. Thank you for your willingness to be involved and thank you to all of those people who extended the hand of fellowship by volunteering to pick up a visitor, by being involved in organising a lunch or morning tea or by helping to organise the worship. We know that many of you have gone to great lengths to make this day a success for your guest and your congregation and we are very thankful.

We know that our overseas friends had some wonderful experiences on the day, sharing in worship and fellowship within an Australian context. We hope that your congregation has also been able to gain something valuable from this experience.

If you or your congregation would like any further information about the work UnitingWorld is involved in, please contact us. Our website also has some great information that you might find useful. There are many different ways that you can be connected with overseas communities for life. We would love to work with you to help that happen. If there is anything more we can do to work with you, then please contact us.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Dr Kerry Enright

National Director / UnitingWorld

PO Box A2266, Sydney South, NSW 1235

Phone: +61 2 8267 4219 | Mob: 0408 231 611

Fax: +61 2 9262 7936

Email: kerrye@unitingworld.org.au

Web: www.unitingworld.org.au

Church Solidarity | Relief & Development | Peacemaking | Experience Programs

Wakefield News

"He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul..." (Psalm 23)

Dear Friend,

Well I think the last time we contacted you we were telling you about the looting going on in town. That little piece of excitement stopped as quickly as it started. Since then we have managed to keep occupied as usual but this time it hasn't all been about hard work, we have managed to get a bit of play in too.

What Michael's been up to:

The end of May was a crazy week but extremely rewarding. I managed to get together another Annual General Meeting, a Management Committee meeting and have the grand opening for the extension of the workshop. At the AGM we all voted that we would like to explore the possibility of joining MAF International. We have been contemplating this for a while now. It is an exciting step and we are now awaiting an official reply from the MAF International board.

The opening of the workshop was also a rewarding time as all the Management Committee members and the staff of CRMF came together to celebrate God's provision for CRMF and as we dedicated the extension back to the Lord and prayed He will use it for His glory.

The first half of June was spent catching up on all the work I had ignored whilst getting ready for the meetings.

We then headed down to Madang for a two-week holiday which we thoroughly enjoyed. I even had time to read a book and spend time reacquainting myself with my family.

On return from holiday we weren't given time to ease back into the real world as we had the pleasure of having Steve Grace stay at CRMF for a week. We were blessed to have him do morning worship with us as well as spending a few nights with us. I acted as a bit of a tour guide to his troupe as they travelled around doing some filming.

Last weekend we were blessed again by joining the MAF conference at Ukarumpa. It was a good weekend of teaching and fellowship which we enjoyed.

On returning it was nose to the grindstone again and catching up on all the paperwork and emails I had been neglecting.

What has the family been doing?

Josh and Elicia finished off their school year at the end of May. We were happy to see they have both done well at school.

We all enjoyed our holiday in Madang. Josh loved playing golf with dad and collecting hermit crabs.



Elicia and Jessica loved snorkelling with Dad (and very, very occasionally Mum). Mikaela just loved getting wet, in the pool or in the sea it didn't matter. Having Steve Grace come and be part of Elicia's birthday party I think was the highlight of the year for her.

The kids really enjoyed the MAF conference where they got to re-acquaint themselves with old friends they haven't seen since last conference.

Joshua is feeling pretty happy with life at the moment as his room has been made much larger by the simple removal of a passage wall. He now feels much closer to the rest of the family and has space to swing a cat or actually a star



wars light sabre really.

We are now all enjoying the company of my (Rachael's) parents, who will be here until school starts at the end of July. I am very thankful that what can seem like a very long school holiday break has brought so many exciting things for the kids and boredom has not had any time to set in.

Prayer Points:

So with our holiday, the MAF conference and the presence of Rachael's parents, we feel the Lord has been giving us a little time to recharge and relax and prepare for the next round of challenges life in PNG gives us. We are very grateful and thankful for the Lord's provision in our lives.

Our freezer recently died due to some unreliable power, please pray it can be fixed and returned quickly and affordably.

We are really struggling with a lack of technicians at work, please pray for the Lord to provide knowledgeable and faithful technicians at CRMF.

Ian Parish from MAF Australia (Gove) was in PNG for the conference and kindly came to



Goroka for a few days just to fix our car. We are very thankful for this huge blessing. She is now running sweet and not using water!

Tomorrow a new family will be arriving to spend seven weeks with us to see if CRMF is the mission for them. Please pray it will be a rewarding time for them and they will be able to clearly discern their future path.

A few of our staff are having personal difficulties, please pray the Lord will give us the wisdom to know how we should help.

Michael asks for specific prayer for God's leading in the next five months as CRMF goes through a 'vision redefining' process, and also drafts a partnership contract with MAF International.

Our photos this time are of Ian fixing our car, Mikaela on one of the beaches we visited in Madang and Steve Grace at Elicia's birthday party.

Thanks again for taking the time to read our update and thanks so much for keeping us in your prayers.

Grace and Peace

Michael, Rachael, Josh, Elicia, Jessica and Mikaela.

The Uniting Church in Action

– serving the marginalised in our community.

During the recent meeting of the Uniting Church in Australia 12th Assembly, I was involved in taking a group of interstate visitors to three "hands on" activities of our church here in Sydney.

This was a great experience for the visitors and equally for me.

During the day we visited:

THE EXODUS FOUNDATION at Ashfield founded by Rev. Bill Crews in 1989.

Purpose: "To provide innovative, quality welfare, healthcare and education to people in need."

We heard from Bill about the services offered and then his son, Michael, took us on a tour of the various activities which include:

The Loaves and Fishes Free Restaurant, which provides breakfast and lunch to more than 400 people daily

Tutorial Centres that offer an intensive and systematic literacy program to help children who have fallen behind in our education system. This scheme is being introduced in other centres around the country by Exodus.

Youth program directed at unemployed early school leavers who are at risk of alienation and at risk.

A wide range of welfare services – food parcels, counselling and advocacy and more.

Medical and Dental Care that provides primary care to those unable to access services in the health system for a variety of reasons.

THE WAYSIDE CHAPEL – our group were able to be part of the outreach as we cooked and served the weekly BBQ to about 40 people. There is no better way of learning than being there and with the people!

The Wayside Chapel has provided unconditional love, care and support for people on and around the streets of Kings Cross since 1964.

Each year, thousands of people visit Wayside for assistance in gaining equitable access to essential health, welfare and related services. In the past year alone Wayside has provided, amongst other services, 7500 meals (either for free or a handful of change), clothing for 2688 people and 2924 counselling sessions with over 2300 referrals to services and agencies.

A further 50,000 visits were made by people just stopping by for a chat, a coffee or a quiet place where they can find company and acceptance.

For younger visitors Wayside has a youth-specific safe space – Wayside Youth – which offers a supportive environment for 12-25 year olds with a specific focus on those at risk in the Kings Cross area.

The Wayside federally funded Day to Day Living Program offers support for people with long-term mental health issues to participate in social, recreational and educational activities.

MAGNOLIA HEALING CENTRE at Rose Bay (Part of the Bondi Beach Mission which receives our ongoing support)

Community Minister, Fran Wootton, has transformed the former Rose Bay Uniting Church into a safe, inviting, beautiful space with clever use of colour, soft cushions and lounges.

Fran explained to us that the centre provides individuals with a safe and caring place to receive therapeutic help in a holistic way, ensuring the best in each person is brought to the surface.

Services include counselling, women's groups, domestic violence support, depression and anxiety management, creative art and writing, facials, massage, yoga and lots more.

After our day's outing I couldn't help but be very proud of our church and to feel privileged to witness these ministries where Christ's Word is transformed into deeds.

Gill Mein



Eastwood Uniting Church Musical Society Inc. presents

ANYTHING GOES



Music and Lyrics by COLE PORTER

Original Book by P.G. WODEHOUSE & GUY BOLTON and HOWARD LINDSAY & RUSSEL CROUSE

New Book by TIMOTHY CROUSE & JOHN WEIDMAN

Originally Produced by Lincoln Center Theatre, New York City

By arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY INC.

This romantic comedy is packed with song, dance, and witty farce and set aboard a luxury liner sailing from New York to England in the 1930s. Come join the passengers, crew and stowaways of the S.S. American to enjoy some light-hearted fun!

Featuring Cole Porter's hit songs, including
YOU'RE THE TOP · IT'S DE-LOVELY
ANYTHING GOES · BLOW, GABRIEL, BLOW
I GET A KICK OUT OF YOU

Eastwood Uniting Church

16 Lakeside Rd, Eastwood

Sept 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19 at 8pm Sept 12 & 19 at 2pm

Adults \$20, Pensioners \$15 Children (16 and under) \$12

Tickets: From 21 July on (02) 8061 7195 (after 7pm) or

www.eucms.org.au

EUCMS' proceeds support various local and overseas charities.

Important Dates for 2009

Elders' meetings

August 10
November 9

Church council

Monday August 17, 7.30pm

Congregational meetings

Wednesday August 26, 7.30pm
Wednesday December 2, 7.30pm

Working bee

Saturday August 29, 8.30am

Judy's Non-fattening Dessert

600ml cream
½ cup icing sugar
2-3 teaspoons instant coffee
1 packet Arnott's Honey Snaps biscuits
Caramel topping

Beat cream and icing sugar together.

Don't make it too thick; fold in coffee, then place a layer of cream, then a layer of biscuits in a glass bowl – ending with a layer of cream.

Pour caramel topping over top – cover with foil or GLAD Wrap and leave in the fridge for two days before using.

Happy eating!

Diary Dates

- **KYB** (Know Your Bible) meets at 10.30am each Monday.
- **Ashleigh Lodge Service** is on the third Sunday of the month at 10.45am.
- **Kids' Time** meets at 4-6pm on Mondays in school terms.
- **THE PIT** is in recess.
- **Indoor Bowls** meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 1pm.
- **Day Fellowship** meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 1pm, and at other times for outings.
- **Friendship Group** meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 8pm.
- **Second Sunday Club** meets on the second Sunday of the month at 4pm.

August

- Sun 2 8.45am Worship (HC) – G Renton
 10.15am Worship – D Richardson
- Sun 9 8.45am Worship – G Renton
 10.15am Worship – Jan Williamson
- Sun 16 8.45am Worship – Jim Mein
 10.15am Worship – Jim Mein
- Sun 23 8.45am Worship – G Renton
 10.15am Worship (HC) – G Renton
- Wed 26 **12pm LINK DEADLINE**
- Sun 30 9.30am Combined Service – Phil Nicolas / Will Newton

September

- Sun 6 8.45am Worship – G Renton
 10.15am Worship – R Tregenza
- Sun 13 8.45am Worship – JAAL
 10.15am Worship – JAAL

Grounds & Gardening

August

- Sat 1,8 S Holmes, S Wilcockson
Sat 15,22 F King, A West